

# VIETNAM COURIER

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Nov. 11

1968

No 190

5th Year

For Independence and Freedom of the Fatherland,

For Socialist

Democracy

## NORTH VIET NAM HAS WORSTED U.S. WAR OF DESTRUCTION:

- \* 3,243 U.S. Aircraft Downed
- \* 143 U.S. Ships and Combat Launches Sunk or Damaged
- \* Economic and Cultural Development Kept Up Despite Bombing
- \* North Viet Nam Commitments to the South

VNPA High Command November 8, 1968 Communiqué

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## PR South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee Statement on Political Settlement of South Viet Nam Issue

FOR fourteen years now, in an attempt to turn South Viet Nam into a neo-colony and military base of the U.S., the U.S. imperialists have been carrying out a policy of aggression, the most ruthless in history, against Vietnamese people, in flagrant violation of the principles of the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam which have been recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

They have installed in South Viet Nam an extremely brutal puppet regime and been trying to impose through fire and sword their domination on the South Vietnamese people.

However, united millions as one, the South Vietnamese people have risen up bravely and tenaciously fighting hard and perseveringly against the aggressors and the traitors. Under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, with the wholehearted assistance of their northern compatriots and the staunch and strong sympathy and support of friendly governments and of the world's people, they have been winning increasingly substantial successes in their sacred war of resistance.

In an attempt to stave off

their complete collapse, the U.S. imperialists have committed a massive U.S. expeditionary force to direct aggression against South Viet Nam, with a war of destruction on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and have been perpetrating innumerable savage crimes over there in both zones of Viet Nam.

But no brutal forces can save the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen from ignominious failure.

Fighting with matchless heroism, the armed forces and people of North Viet Nam have, with the support of U.S. aircraft, defeated the U.S. war of destruction and fulfilled its duty as the great rear to the great front.

Their fellow-countrymen and combatants in South Viet Nam have, under the escalations of the U.S. war of aggression and, since early Spring this year, have been mounting continuous and coordinated offensives and uprising, dealing thunder blows at the U.S.-puppets right in their hideouts, recording victories of unparalleled magnitudes in the fields, driving the tide of war and driving the U.S.-puppets deeper into a position of

(Continued from page 3)

### NFL Representative to Paris Conference Preparatory Work Appointed

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has appointed Professor Nguyen Thi Binh, member of the Front's Central Committee, as its representative in the preparatory work for the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

### South Viet Nam

- 150 GIs Put Out of Action in Tay Ninh Province, 31 Tanks Destroyed and 3 Choppers Shot Down.
- 300 Adverse Troops Wiped Out at Ben Cat.
- 4 L.C.M. Freighters Sunk and A Military Train Overturned in Saigon Region.
- 4 Choppers Downed on November 4 and 5, Northwest of Saigon and in Pleiku.
- Many Enemy Bases in South Viet Nam Bombed.

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— Statement of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Page 8

— Joint Communiqué of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the C.C. of Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. Page 8

— Excerpts from report by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Dinh, P.L.A.F. deputy C-in-C, at All South Viet Nam Fourth Conference on Guerrilla war. Page 8

— P.L.A.F. men attacking the enemy in his last strongholds in South Viet Nam cities Page 8



## SOUTH VIET NAM ALLIANCE:

# "N.F.L. HAS DECISIVE ROLE IN ANY SOUTH VIET NAM SETTLEMENT"

THE *Viet Nam Alliance* of National, Democratic and Peace Forces issued on Nov. 3 a statement on the present development of the struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

The statement regarded the U.S. Government's decision to cease completely its bombardments of the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and accept the partition of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in the coming discussions on a political settlement of the South Viet Nam issue as "another serious setback for the U.S. and the Saigon administration" and "a fresh tremendous victory for the Vietnamese people in both zones".

It went on to say that after an exchange of views with the Central Committee of the N.F.L., the Alliance's Central Committee "unanimously declares its full approval of, and strong support for, the position of the former on the political settlement of the South Viet

Name issue and its decision to take part in the conversations in Paris as announced in the November 3, 1968 statement of the N.F.L. Central Committee.

"Such a position and decision is entirely sound, logical and reasonable. It is fully consistent with the fundamental and independent aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in the coming discussions on a political settlement of the South Viet Nam issue as "another serious setback for the U.S. and the Saigon administration" and "a fresh tremendous victory for the Vietnamese people in both zones".

The Alliance "once again affirms that the South Viet Nam N.F.L. is the great and principal fighting force of the entire South Vietnamese people's national united front directed against

U.S. aggression. The front consequently plays a decisive role and must be present at any discussions of a political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem".

The statement then stressed the Alliance's determination to "stand shoulder to shoulder with the N.F.L. and maintain each all its policies on the battlefield as well as at the conference table" and that it was "for joint actions and discussions with the South Viet Nam N.F.L. on all steps to regain national independence, restore peace, build the country, and bring about a free and happy life for the entire people" as has been made plain in the Alliance's National Salvation Manifesto but out soon after its founding.

The statement sternly denounced the U.S. persistence in its neo-colonialist policy of war and aggression in South Viet Nam, and the Saigon puppet regime's downright vicious, traitorous

and anti-popular nature which has manifested itself in U.S. complete and unconditional bombing halt in North Viet Nam, an attitude utterly at variance with the people's aspirations for peace, war end, independence, democracy and better living conditions.

It called on "intellectuals, industrialists, traders, personalities, youth, students, women, workers, peasants and other working people in the areas still under control of the front" to fight on for national greater victory, to rally all officers and men of the puppet army and police, on officials and other personnel of the Saigon puppet administration "to take stock of the situation, promptly rise up and join in the people's struggle".

The statement ended with a renewal of the Alliance's support for the four points of the D.R.V.N. government on the political settlement of the Viet Nam problem and stressed that "to all champions of Viet Nam's cause throughout the world".

## South Viet Nam National Front For Liberation...

(Continued from page 1)

passiveness and decline from which it is impossible for them to recover.

Under the impact of the gallant and unyielding struggle and the victories of the people, the political and comprehensive significance of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has, after proclaiming its position regarding the political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem:

— South Viet Nam has set its stand on the realization of its sacred rights, namely independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity, and ultimate reunification of the Fatherland.

— The U.S. imperialists must put an end to its war of aggression against Viet Nam, withdraw all U.S. military bases and clinging to the puppet and anti-nationalist regime of maintaining its imperialist rule in South Viet Nam and its neo-colonialist domination of Viet Nam. It is its stubbornly carrying on acts of encroachment on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is a tremendous victory of the people of all Viet Nam and of the peace-loving world.

This, however, does not mean that the U.S. has given up its aggressive design against Viet Nam. It is still durably stepping up its war in South Viet Nam and clinging to the puppet and anti-nationalist regime of maintaining its imperialist rule in South Viet Nam and its neo-colonialist domination of Viet Nam. It is its stubbornly carrying on acts of encroachment on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is a tremendous victory of the people of all Viet Nam and of the peace-loving world.

The South Vietnamese people and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation firmly insist that the U.S. bring to a final stop all acts of encroachment on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, put an end to the U.S. bases in South Viet Nam, carry out all its pledges at the 1968 Geneva Conference on Viet Nam, and that the U.S. observe the inalienable national rights of the South Vietnamese people.

— The reunification of Viet Nam must be the people's in the two zones of Viet Nam, step by step, by peaceful means, by the will of the entire Vietnamese people, and constitute the reasonable basis for the development of the Viet Nam issue.

In the present context of

U.S. unconditional bombing halt in all of North Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation

staunchly affirms that

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— South Viet Nam will

foresee a foreign policy of

peace and neutrality, no

military alliance in any

parties and all the fighters of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces will stiffen their resolve and fight harder to defend the revolution. Let us hold high the banner of victory, rush forward with maximum effort to keep up the impetus of relentless offensives and continual uprisings to defeat the U.S. and its lackeys. In the final stage of the clique of traitors, wrench back complete power for the people, and liberate the entire nation, namely to liberate South Viet Nam, defend North Viet Nam, achieve national independence, neutrality, prosperity and ultimate reunification of the country, and contribute to the maintenance of peace in Asia and the world.

Men and officers of the puppet army and personnel of the puppet administration, try to work in the proximity of the front, to be drawn to the fold and join in the people's fight against the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. Let us all, the South Vietnamese people, as a whole, be it strongly opposed by our people's spirit and determination in the world.

It does not represent anybody. The presence of the representatives of the Saigon puppet administration in the said conference does not involve its recognition by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the people are prepared to welcome you.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls upon all governments, all organizations, all democratic forces, all progressive organizations throughout the world, including U.S. progressives, to give vigorous support to the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and more active assistance to the South Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation until its complete victory.

South Viet Nam decidedly

will be liberated!

The Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation will surely triumph!

South Viet Nam,  
November 3, 1968

VIET NAM COURIER

## NFL AND VIET NAM ALLIANCE ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON PRESENT STRUGGLE

# Paris D.R.V.N.—U.S. Talks Viet Nam Envoy: "Paris Quadripartite Conference - New Phase in Search for Viet Nam Peace"

ON November 3, 4 and 5, 1968, a delegation of the Central Committee of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and a delegation of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces held talks on problems concerning the present struggle of the South Vietnamese people and on its future.

A joint communiqué was issued at the conclusion of the meeting.

— The joint communiqué recorded the identity of views of both delegations concerning U.S. imperialists' responsibility for the present situation, the 1964 Geneva Agreements, and the war of aggression against the Vietnamese people in both zones.

Both delegations exposed the U.S.-installed South Viet Nam administration and the Diem-Nhu brothers' past rule to the present Thieu-Ky Huong regime as "but a gang of puppets, henchmen and traitors who have willingly sold their South Vietnamese soul to the U.S. and invited in the American expeditionary troops to trample upon their country and massacre their compatriots. It is an open secret that they are the worst affection of the entire South Vietnamese people.

They also expressed sincere thanks to all governments, international organizations and peace-loving people all over the world for their condemnation of the U.S. imperialists and their sympathy, support and encouragement to the South Vietnamese people.

The joint communiqué then went on: "The two delegations recognise the objective set for the current struggle of the South Vietnamese people: independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity and ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

— To attain this goal, it is necessary to achieve a great success in the following statement:

(Continued page 8)

the D.R.V.N. They however, warned against the obstinate of the U.S. imperialists who are still continuing their aggressive war and clinging on to the Thieu-Ky Huong puppet administration in the hope of maintaining their neo-colonialist rule and prolonging the partition of the country.

"But" the joint communiqué stressed, "this total fiasco in its war of aggression in South Viet Nam and the puppet administration's complete collapse is a foregone conclusion."

The N.F.L. and the Viet Nam Alliance command the South Vietnamese people and fight for the realization of the 1964 Geneva Agreements, and the war of aggression against the Vietnamese people in both zones.

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(Continued page 8)

## Letter from Hanoi

I may cause you some surprise if I tell you that these days of November 1968 remind me of a French road, namely, from Paris to the Naii invasion.

It is in 1950. Thousands of angry peasants were marching on Vinh, the capital of a province where a popular insurrection had broken out. Suddenly an airplane, a single one, flew over at a very low altitude, kept circling for a time, then opened fire with its machine gun. People collapsed, the demonstration was broken up. I was only a young student and didn't understand much about events of the day, but the memory has since remained alive in my mind of a crowd shaking powerless sticks at a

plane which was totally out of their reach.

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# North Viet Nam Has Worst U.S. War of Destruction

VNPA High Command 5 November 1968 Communiqué on Victory over U.S. War of Destruction  
(Excerpt)<sup>4</sup>

## HUGE MEANS, ODIOUS CRIMES

FOR more than four years, along with intensifying their war of aggression, the South Viet Nam imperialists recklessly and frantically waged a war of destruction against North Viet Nam in an effort to cut off their losing situation in the South.

In execution of this "strategic" plan, the U.S. imperialists used considerable air and naval forces and all modern equipment and techniques at their disposal, employing the most savage methods in their round-the-clock attacks on the whole territory of North Viet Nam.

They deployed on the Viet Nam battlefield a big air force with 1,000 aircraft and naval planes. They committed to the war the Navy and Air Force, and more than 10,000 sorties against Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces and Vinh Linh area.

The U.S. imperialists mobilised the

whole of their Seventh Fleet, the biggest armada of the Navy, and more than 100 ships and war vessels of other naval units. Almost all their aircraft-carriers were commissioned in this war in rotation.

In attacking the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists committed heinous war crimes:

— They brazenly flouted every international law, and encroached upon a socialist country, an independent and sovereign country.

They cynically resorted to all kinds of inhuman, pestilential, napalm, phosphorous bombs and toxic chemicals against our people, making our country a "desert".

The U.S. imperialists poured on North Viet Nam nearly one million tons of bombs and shrapnel, more than 100,000 sorties in the three years of war in Korea and many times higher than that dropped on Japan during World War Two.

## HEAVY LOSSES BUT NO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ATTAINED

THE U.S. imperialists hoped with their war of destruction to subdue North Viet Nam, to intimidate our people and shake their determination to resist U.S. aggression; they hoped to force us to submit to their domination in the North, prevent North Vietnamese active assistance to their Southern kith-and-kin, and break up our political, economic, cultural, and administrative power.

Realities, however, disappointed their dark designs. All basic strategic objectives of the U.S. remained unachieved.

In South Viet Nam, our armed forces and people maintained and kept up their offensive, repeatedly foiled the enemy's strategic counter-offensive and drove them into a defensive and passive posture.

In 3 months, our armed forces and people attacked scores of cities and towns, big or small, including Saigon, Huu and Da Nang, liberated many vast populated rural areas, inflicted more than half a million enemy casualties including nearly 18,000 U.S. and allied troops, shot down or destroyed 1,000 aircraft and wrecked over 10,000 military vehicles including over 6,000 tanks and armoured cars.

This war of victory has brought about a new war situation very favourable to us and utterly unfavourable to the enemy.

Our position has become increasingly steadier and our strength has not come down.

In North Viet Nam, our armed forces and people recorded tremendous victories. By November 1, 1968, 3,433 U.S. aircraft had been shot down, thousands of air pirates

## GREAT STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR VICTORY OVER U.S. WAR OF DESTRUCTION

*The above victories were due to: 1. the very sound and imaginative political and military line and conduct of our Party and a telling blow on their aggressive design. It is a common victory of our armed forces and people throughout the country which can be credited to the militant solidarity between the North and the South.*

*Second, it constituted a setback for a new form of warfare in the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression. Firmly grasping and really carrying out the political and military line of our Party, we have brought into full play the combined strength and great effectiveness of people's war and armed forces of the U.S. imperialists, the most brutal of all imperialists. This has illustrated the invincible strength of the people's armed forces in rupturing the outdated imperialist military science. It has also proved our people's capability of getting the better of any kind of aggressive war of any imperialist, the dare has given us upon our country.*

*It expresses its profound gratitude and warm congratulations to the people's cadres and masses, to all nationalities and religious minorities, to the cadres of various services and mass organisations for their solidarity with, and assistance to, the people's armed forces and for their contributions to the building of the armed forces, and for their selfless dedication in serving the front...*

(Continued page 8)

\* Italics and bold-faced emphasis are ours.

In the thick of war, the North, like every other building itself, has been growing up constantly. Our socialist construction continued to progress increasingly. Our economic power has also increased.

Our national defence potential has expanded considerably.

Communications and transport

continue uninterrupted, linking the rear base to the front.

Public security and order have been maintained. Our people's life

remains stable.

In South Viet Nam, our armed forces and people maintained and kept up their offensive, repeatedly foiled the enemy's strategic counter-offensive and drove them into a defensive and passive posture.

In 3 months, our armed forces and

people attacked scores of cities

and towns, big or small, including

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Thugs who have defeated the U.S. war of destruction in North Viet Nam: People's Army A.A. artillerymen

# LANDMARKS OF VICTORY

After 30 months, the war of destruction conducted by the U.S. imperialists against North Viet Nam has come to an end. In 6 months, the U.S. super-arm — aviation — has been brought to utter failure.

more enemy planes bit the dust South of the 20th parallel.

May 18—December 24, 1965: Aggression punished all over North Viet Nam

AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE FOR HIM WHO EXPECTED TO TAKE OTHERS BY SURPRISE

In mid-1964, the U.S. "special war" in South Viet Nam had undoubtedly failed for lack of a show of its purpose. To remedy this situation, the U.S. had contemplated a reproduction of the famous "incident" of "Operation Mongoose", which, in 1954, helped the U.S. gain its foothold in Cuba at the expense of the Spanish. On August 2 and August 4, it concocted the rat and the anti-Tonkin Gulf Incident, claiming that the U.S. destroyers had been attacked on the high seas by P.T. boats of the D.R.V.N. On August 21, without any warning, Johnson hurled his aircraft on several points in North Viet Nam in a general assault for the aggressors. Their warplanes were cut down and several pilots killed or captured. Johnson succeeded in winning a Senate vote for a decision allowing him to conduct open warfare in the war.

On November 18, of the same year, another raid on the Western part of Quang Binh province cost the aggressors 3 more aircraft.

Enemy losses skyrocketed: 48 planes were brought down and many others damaged. Twelve fighter-bombers were knocked down in a single day, on August 7, and in a month between July 17 and August 17, our AA defences brought down 130 U.S. planes.

In our territorial waters, an enemy ship received direct hits from our gunners.

THE military situation in South Viet Nam was not favourable for the aggressors and their luckies to the point that a massive armed intervention had to be decided by Washington. The Taylor plan was put into practice: systematic bombing of North Viet Nam. Projected by P.L.A.F., attacks on U.S. base camps including the Pleiku one on the night of October 7, 1965, and the following day on U.S. aircraft flew bombing missions to Quang Binh province and the Vinh Linh area just North of the demilitarisation line. Day after day, they climbed the different parallel zones of the demilitarised zone and the border areas, and bombardments by the 7th Fleet on coastal areas and laying of mines at the estuaries of North Viet Nam's rivers. Hanoi and Haiphong became the centre of the efforts of aggression, who thought they could find the right way to bring the D.R.V.N. to its knees.

ECIDEDLY, Washington wanted to strike its war measures were added to the air and naval strikes which were being intensified and expanded. The U.S. artillery based South of the demilitarised zone and the border areas, and bombardments by the 7th Fleet on coastal areas and laying of mines at the estuaries of North Viet Nam's rivers. Hanoi and Haiphong became the centre of the efforts of aggression, who thought they could find the right way to bring the D.R.V.N. to its knees.

According to U.S. sources, the U.S. Air Force has lost in Viet Nam more than 50% of its F-105 bi-sonic fighters-bombers.

March 31—November 1, 1968: U.S. "LIMITED" BOMBING FAILURE SEALED THE FATE OF THE WAR OF DESTRUCTION

ND Jan.—early Feb., the general attacks and bombardments of the South Viet Nam came as a bombshell, immediately tipping the balance of forces in favour of the patriots. The ineffectiveness of the war of destruction in North

Viet Nam became apparent, all strategic objectives being unattained. Washington made a last-ditch attempt by concentrating all its aerial forces in the South, constituted by the provinces South of the 10th parallel, destroying and killing with the force of despair.

Futile efforts: 452 more U.S. planes shot down and 31 naval craft were set ablaze, including the 66,000-ton battleship *New Jersey* and its nine 406-mm guns.

The above was the essential reason which was behind L.B. Johnson's decision to stop all air, naval and artillery bombardments of the D.R.V.N. as from November 1, 1968.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

# HOW U.S. WAR OF DESTRUCTION WAS DEFEATED



THE U.S. planes grounded in North Viet Nam belong to 47 different types produced by 17 American firms. Steadily all kinds of tactical aircraft and even strategic planes which had never been used in war, actual military operations have been shot down by anti-aircraft defence forces. From 1964 to 1968, a ground plane-to-air missiles, fighter planes, automatic guns and even simple infantile rifles. Let us mention individual and only the most "ultra-modern" of them:

— Fighters-bombers *Phantom* (F-4C and F-4D), *Thunderchief* (F-105D), *F-4C Intruder* (A-4D), *A-7*, *CF-118*, *TFX* (wing-wing), *F-111A*, etc...

— Jet and elecromagnetic unguided or unguided reconnaissance planes *RF-4C*, *RF-4C*, *RF-4C*, *RF-4C*, etc...

MONG the thousands of pilots killed, wounded and captured, many "aces" of the U.S. air force with a record of several thousand flight hours have been even been picked out for space flights. Their grades rank between second-lieutenant and colonel in the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy and the Marines. Let us note in this regard, that according to American sources, the training of a complete pilot costs 73,000 U.S. dollars.

AMONG the naval craft hit were the U.S.S. *New Jersey* (60,000 tons, veterans of the Korean war), the cruiser *Chicago* (Australian) and *Saint Paul*, and many destroyers.

Since February 26, 1968, official data of the involvement of the U.S. Navy in the war against North Viet Nam, our coastal defence score 92 hits at enemy warships. A unit of young people, the gunners in Quang Binh province damaged two of them...

Year	Number of enemy planes shot down	Number of ships and boats sunk or damaged
1964	12	1 (the USS <i>Maddox</i> )
1965	834	15
1966	773	22
1967	1007	69
1968	537	30
(up to Nov. 1)		
Total:	3,343	143

THE number of enemy planes downed represents five and half times that of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. According to U.S. sources, the U.S. Air Force has lost in Viet Nam more than 50% of its F-105 bi-sonic fighters-bombers.







# ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

## Military Operations

In late Oct. and early Nov., fighting continued in all parts of South Viet Nam.

Most remarkable were the P.L.A.F. attacks on the night of Oct. 22, in an adverse confrontation at Ea Chien (50km North east of Tay Ninh) and two Saigon troops battalions at Ben Cat (25km north northwest of Saigon), the sinking of 4 enemy vessels on the Dong Tran river (linking Saigon to the sea) and the blowing down of a 300-metre long steel bridge at Ben Mo (15km North of Saigon).

Continual P.L.A.F. shelling also were reported of military targets in the provincial capitals of Quang Tri, My Tho, Kontum, Vinh Long, Bien Hoa, Camau and Tay Ninh, and others positions in Northern Quang Nam, Dong Ha, Dong Mieu, and other places, causing losses among the adversaries.

### IN THE VICINITY OF SAIGON

THE P.L.A.F. operating in Tay Ninh made a surprise attack at the column of the 1st U.S. Engineers at Ba Chanh (50km northeast of Tay Ninh) at dawn on Nov. 1. Right at the start, different columns of the P.L.A.F. dashed in, assisted by U.S. C-47s, wiped it out. Other P.L.A.F. units chopped up the enemy formation and knocked out the command group after great combat losses, assaulting forces wiped out 150 G.I.s, destroyed 37 tanks and 5 M-113 armoured troop carriers, and blew up 4 gun emplacements. In the morning of Nov. 2, Liberation anti-aircraft gunners brought down 3 choppers in the same area.

On "Mong" Press Agency further reported that in October guerrillas and regional troops in the same provinces engaged the enemy in 30 major and small battles, putting 1,500 U.S. troops and regional troops out of action, shooting down 4 aircraft and destroying 12 military vehicles.

In the 5 days ending Oct. 22, regional troops and guerrillas engaged 1,000 soldiers operating in various localities of Bao Cat and Loo Ninh districts, respectively 40km North - northwest and 11km North of Saigon, killing or wounding 200 of them. In a dramatic action against 2 puppet paratroop battalions helifted to 4 villages in Dong Nai province, regional armed forces put 100 enemy soldiers out of action. On Nov. 6, a 300-metre bridge spanning the Saigon river was completely destroyed by the P.L.A.F., leaving casualties among American and puppet guards.

In Gia Dinh and Long An (Northeast and Southeast of Saigon) between Oct. 15 and Oct. 20, regional troops and guerrillas of the districts of Ca Cat (Gia Dinh) and Due Hua and Due Ha (Long An) put 100 enemy troops to the sword, shot down 2 helicopters and destroying 3 armoured cars.

In Bien Hoa (5km North of Saigon), the province's regional armed forces on Oct. 23 ambushed a U.S. convoy comprising 4 L.M.C. freighters on Dong Tran river (25km Southeast of Saigon) sinking 3 and shooting the 4th. On the afternoon of Oct. 23, guerrillas using mines blew up a train loaded with troops and military goods on the railway of Bien Hoa, leaving 100 dead.

On the afternoon of Nov. 5, Liberation gunners scored direct hits at the U.S. military

Binh Doc. The shelling topped off big fire, causing damage to many warehouses and many casualties.

### IN CENTRAL TRUNG BO AND TAY NGUYEN

LIGHT and moderate fighting was reported in Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Kontum, and Lam Dong provinces.

In the 10 days ending Oct. 22, regional troops and guerrillas in Dien Ban and Duy Xuyen districts (South of Duy Nang) in Northern Quang Nam put 200 enemy troops out of action and shot down 2 aircraft.

In Binh Dinh, regional troops of Hoai Nhieu district (South of Bong Son town) on Oct. 9 fought a puppet force of 150 men, killing 3 in a village, killing or wounding 16 of the raiders (one company completely destroyed). On the same day, 7 enemy aircraft were brought down and a M-13's destroyed.

In Kontum and Lai Dong (Western Highlands) between Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, the P.L.A.F. and regional troops wiped out many enemies, shot

down 6 helicopters (Kontum) and destroyed 5 military vehicles (Lam Dong). On Nov. 3, the P.L.A.F. in Pleiku shot down another helicopter.

A PART from these actions from Oct. 30 to Nov. 6, the P.L.A.F. mounted

violent fire attacks on enemy positions in the towns of Quang Tri, Vinh Long, Bao Loc and Pleiku, and the bases of Dien Ho, Soc Mieu (near the 17th parallel) the airfields of Bien Hoa, and True Giang near Ben Tre town and Tri Ton district capital (Gulf of Thailand). Heavy enemy losses were reported by Western agencies.



Liberation fighters ambushing enemy craft on Ham Luong river.

## Sniper's Corner

### U.S. - PUPPET REGIME OR A RING OF ROBBERS

In areas of South Viet Nam still occupied by the Americans and their puppets, theft and robbery are of daily occurrences. Worse still, the very so-called "anti-communists" and "thieves and robbers," officers and men of the "Republican Army" and American "freedom fighters." The Saigon press euphemistically refers to them as "khaki-clad bandits" and "foreigners." Whereas the Americans and "foreigners" snatching purses and robbing taxi-drivers, "every reader knows that the "foreigners" are none other than Thien-Ky-Huong's American "allies."

Here is a story run by *Tuoi Tre* (Saigon) of September 13, 1968 under the title: "Foreigner snatches purse"; "On Sept. 5, Pham Thi Gan, a 25-year-old waitress in a restaurant, had just received her pay, 12,000 dong, which she put in a handbag. A foreigner ordered a drink. When she brought it to him, the man clutched at her purse and ran off. Another report in the same issue says: "At 4 p.m. on Sept. 5, Nguyen Kim Van, 25, lives at 538 Truong Minh Giang, was walking along Nguyen Dinh Chien street when a Honda motorcycle carrying two khaki-clad men came up from behind. The men on the motorcycle clamped her bag and the motorcycle roared away."

The paper *Tien* (Forward) of August 9, 1968, reports: "At 6.30 p.m. on the afternoon

of the 4th of August, four men stepped into a restaurant at the corner of Cong-Hoa and Tran Hung Dao streets and ordered food and drinks. The bill amounted to 200 dong. But they just ignored it and tried to make off. The restaurant-owner shouted for help... All four were subsequently found to be military men: Huong Van Nha, Nguyen Van Tiep, Nguyen Huong and Nguen Huynh Quang."

What about puppet officers? Here is a story in *Tuoi Tre* of September 13, 1968: "Indeed we are in a period of upheaval. Anything can happen. Even a major attached to the Presidential Palace can turn out to be a thief! Major Kinh stole a Toyota car, put on it the license plate of his own jalopy, and sat at the wheel with a perfectly straight face. It was not because he was short of money, but simply because he had a free life style and he did he could get away with it. A major, and on the staff of the Presidential Palace at that! Who would dare lay a finger on him!"

The above cases are but petty larcenies compared with the robberies perpetrated by the bigwigs of the regime, for instance, "Vice President" and "Prime Minister" downwards. The only difference

is that the press never dares to bring them to light. They are euphemistically called cases of "corruption," against which Tran Van Huong's "anti-corruption Committee" appears to be completely powerless. The Saigon paper *Quyet Tien* (To Advance) of September 1 writes: "In our opinion, Premier Tran Van Huong and his administration should send the corruption dossier straight away to court, and not worry about the names connected with them. The fact that he has preferred to send those dossiers to the President shows that he is seeking cover, knowing that

the reactions of powerful corrupt men could overthrow his Cabinet." *Cong Luu*, (Public opinion) another newspaper, remarks (August 4): "No head has been smashed so far in the anti-corruption drive, although Premier Huong's policy is to crush heads, not tails. In fact only small fry have been punished for petty graft, but the 'heads' are all alive and kicking."

Well, as the first casualties of a truly effective anti-corruption campaign would be the big bones of the establishment itself, to put teeth into it would simply be suicidal, wouldn't it?

### A CHANCE IN A THOUSAND!

*UPI* reported that this year half of Saigon's yes-men had been allowed by the U.S. to make trips abroad allegedly to "de-politicize" world public opinion.

On the whole, world public opinion maintains that the "Government of the Republic of Saigon" is nothing more than a "delapidated plank," "a rotten corpse," a "scarecrow" for the U.S., a "pack of lazy, corrupt, debauched and even villainous rulers who lose faith in the future" and so on... Therefore, yes-men have been sent to "de-politicize" these views.

*UPI* complained that these hysterical airings had proved costly for the Americans. But for Saigonese yes-men, it was the chance of a lifetime. Apart from the luxuries of

first-class hotels and dollar cash, they were free to indulge in smuggling.

For this reason, our representatives have been hotly contesting these "missions," using even abusive language to one another.

As disclosed by the paper *Cong Ong*, to clinch the dispute, the Saigon "House of Representatives" finally decided to resort to the lot. Lucky men would get the pieces of cake and the devil take the hindmost.

The same paper, however, raised a question which gave cause to anxiety: With this method, it might happen that luck favoured some know-nothings and do-nothings, then how would they manage to "de-politicize" public opinion?

*The short-shooter*